

Towns June 13, 2008 ETIN

WELCOME

Larry Archer, PhD, Staff Psychologist (BH)
Jennifer Buckman, LPN (PS)
Katherine Burnham, Social Worker (BH)
Shaun Calix, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Malaika Gallimore, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Regan Hayden, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Craig Hermann, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Troy Loethen, Biological Lab Technician (Research)
Elizabeth Paisley, MD, Staff Physician (PC)
Nida Palmer, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Denise Powell, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Stephanie Scrivner, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Leo Smith, Medical Technologist (CS)
Amy Wright, Student Nurse Technician (PS)

FAREWELL

Christopher Carl, Telephone Operator (HAS)
Terry Gardner, Supply Technician (FIN)
Derrick Griffith, Food Service Worker (PS)
Beth Harris, Physical Therapy Aid (CS)
Craig Heligman, MD, Staff Physician (PC)
Brandy Knehans, Nursing Aid (PS)
Brandon Marshall, Nuclear Medicine Tech (CS)
Osarumen Okumbor, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
Rekeshea Robinson, Medical Supply Aid (PS)

VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Cynthia Acton (PS), **Dianne Mirtz** (PC), and **Arianna Todd** (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

RECENT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Employee of the Month (June): Betty Carter (PC)

<u>Limployee of the Month (June)</u>. **Detty Carter** (PC)

Star of the Month (April): **Sharon May, RN** (PC)

Good Catch Patient Safety Awards (May):

Nancy Dietz, RPh (Pharmacy); Bobby Howald (FM) and William Lee (FM); April Koonse, LPN (PS); Janet Neisen (Pharmacy); and Alana Smith, RN (PS).

Torch Award (June): John Roy Jones (PS).

SAFETY CORNER: PREVENTING HEAT RELATED ILLNESS

Did you know that heat related illnesses kill about 4,000 Americans annually? When the body in unable to cool itself by sweating, heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke can occur. Here are six ways for workers to prevent heat related illness:

 Pre-hydrate – Before activity starts, drink up to 16 ounces of fluid. Then drink eight ounces every 20 minutes

during the activity.

 <u>Drink flavored water</u> – Plain water quenches thirst too quickly, so you tend to not drink enough of it.

- * Acclimate to heat slowly This should occur over five to seven days with time in the heat increased by about 20 percent each day. Four days out of the heat requires reacclimation.
- * Wear a hat that's well ventilated Otherwise, heat loss through your head is restricted. If you are in direct sunlight, you can wear a visor and sunglasses. Don't forget sunscreen!
- Wear loose, thin synthetic fabrics that wick away moisture They help the skin stay cool through evaporation. Avoid cotton as it soaks up sweat, forestalling evaporation.
- Wear your PPE no matter what the temperature Your personal protective equipment (PPE) cannot protect you if it's not on you! If it's uncomfortable, take frequent breaks.

WANTED! E M R TEAM MEMBERS

Are you interested in doing something different and learning more about disaster preparedness? Consider joining Truman VA's **Emergency Medical Response** Team. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Mass Casualty Decontamination
- Medical and Technical Support
- > Tent and Equipment Management
- Medical Triage.

For more information, check out Hospital Policy Memorandum (HPM) 589A4-394 or contact Richard.poelling@va.gov for an application. Meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The next training class is planned for Aug. 18-19, so do not delay.

COMBAT VETERAN OUTREACH UPDATE

In late May, VA announced that the first phase of a calling program for non-enrolled combat veterans had been completed. Phase one of the outreach effort was to call veterans potentially identified as being ill or injured from combat operation in



Afghanistan and Iraq. Phase two will be contacting approximately 500,000 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans that have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for health care.

A contractor-operated "Combat Veteran Call Center" is making the initial calls on behalf of VA. All potentially sick or injured veterans on VA's list received an offer to appoint a care manager to work with them if they did not already have one. VA care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and know about their VA benefits. In the new phase, veterans that have not accessed VA health care will be called and informed of the benefits and services available to them. For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans have special access to VA health care, including screening for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Approximately 35 percent of the combat veterans eligible for this benefit have accessed VA health care to date, which is much higher than previous conflicts. However, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, James B. Peake, MD, made the commitment to undertake the combat veteran outreach effort to assure further that veterans in need of such services were fully aware of the benefit.

O I & T "COMPUTER CORNER"

STANDARD VISTA FEATURES

?	Used to display menu options or field entry information
??	Display more detailed information from above
Λ	To end current operation and return to previous location
^aaa	Jump to the prompt starting with the letters
	aaa
@	Delete the content of this field

To enter a name already in the system, add quotes to the name. For example, enter "Smith, John" to add another John Smith.

Enter **T** for **TODAY'S DATE** At a **Date** Enter **N** for TODAY'S DATE & TIME. Prompt:

Anything to the left of // will be entered/accepted when you press return. For example:

DATE: *T// press ENTER* to accept TODAY's date.

THANK YOU FOR "CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES"

Truman VA's EEO Committee and its Diversity Day planning committee convey appreciation to everyone that contributed to the success of our first Diversity Day celebration on May 22. Each of the Special Emphasis Programs – African American, Native American, Asian Pacific Islander, Hispanics, Federally Employed Women and Persons With Disabilities - had displays. The event's theme was "Celebrating Our Differences." Many employees submitted recipes that were compiled into a recipe book. The Veterans Canteen Service prepared four of the recipes and samples were served of International Coffee Cake, Fried Hominy, Gooey Pumpkin Butter Cake and Porky Pine Meatballs. Several Douglass High School students provided instruction about text messaging and VA volunteers assisted with distribution of the recipe books. Also, representatives from the University of Missouri demonstrated a number of devices and tools designed to assist individuals with disabilities.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs James B. Peake, M.D., paid tribute to VA's top nurses and medical professionals during the Secretary's 2008 Excellence in Nursing and the Advancement of Nursing Programs Award Ceremony held May 12 in VA's Central Office. Natalie Russell, RN, of Truman VA was presented the award for Registered Nurse in a Staff Role. Pictured are: Secretary Peake, Russell, Chief Nursing Officer Cathy Rick and Under Secretary for Health Michael J. Kussman, M.D.



